

In re AKEMAKOU  
09/700,877

### REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the Official Action dated April 23, 2003 and the indication of allowable subject matter. This amendment and remarks to follow are fully responsive thereto.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nondahl (USP 4,405,873) in view of Tanaka (USP 4,727,273) and Leitgeb (USP 5,015,902). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nondahl '873 (Applicant has assumed a typo in the Official Action, ¶ 5) in view of Tanaka '273; Leitgeb '902 and Hiroshi (JP 58-063059). These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the following comments.

Contrary to the Examiner assertion, element 9 of Leitgeb '902 is not a permanent magnet. Permanent magnets 4 of Leitgeb '902 are surface magnets providing radial flux. Therefore, it is clear that the prior art combination suggested by the Examiner fails to render obvious the claimed invention because the combination fails to set for the each claim element and structure.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 4-8 contain allowable subject matter because the prior art does not teach the construction of an electric machine wherein each sub-assembly comprises a magnet containing rare earths interposed in a radial direction, between two ferrite magnets. The Examiner has also indicated that claims 9-17 are allowable.

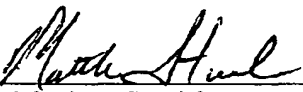
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New dependent claims 18 and 19 have been added to recite additional features of the invention not disclosed or suggested in the prior art. Claim 19 is based on the specification at page 5, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph. No new matter has been entered.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-17 define the invention over the prior art and that the claims be considered allowable and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe further discussion regarding the above claim language would expedite prosecution, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted:

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